

STAFFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Agenda Consideration

TOPIC: Block Scheduling Evaluation Plan

ITEM NO:

MEETING: October 12, 2005

PREPARED BY:

ACTION DATE:

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Assistant Superintendent for Instruction & Technology

Chris Quinn, Ph.D.
Executive Director for Instructional Services

ACTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT:

That the Stafford County School Board receive information on the plan and methodology that will be used to evaluate the hybrid block scheduling format used in three of the division's high schools.

KEY POINTS:

The Executive Director of Instruction and staff will examine the following variables to determine whether outcomes change after the implementation of the hybrid block scheduling format:

1. Student academic success will be compared by analyzing the following indicators: SOL end-of-course results, SAT scores, advanced placement results, credits earned, grade promotion rates, and graduation rates.
2. Academic opportunities including course offerings and course enrollment. The enrollment in advanced placement courses will be a focus.
3. Student behavioral success will be compared by examining attendance, suspension rates, and discipline referrals.
4. Analysis of specific quality standards (i.e. – teacher daily course enrollment load, number of teacher preparations per semester, and class size averages).
5. General satisfaction will be determined through surveying administrators, teachers, students, and parents.
6. The quality of classroom instruction will be measured through a best practices audit in which a team of central office curriculum specialists will conduct classroom observations.

In each of the schools, the principals will establish a school advisory council that will be charged with focusing on student achievement, and school improvement including curriculum program goals and priorities. The school advisory council will consist of the principal as chairman; and teacher, parent, and/or business partner representatives. The school advisory council will appoint a block scheduling study group for the purpose of reviewing information, data, and results that are provided by the block scheduling evaluation process. The study group will report back to the principal and school advisory council from time to time.

Even though update reports on the evaluation process can be made to the Board at any time during the 2005-06 school year, a summative annual report will not be available until the October 2006 since comprehensive, complete data will not be available until September.

Finally, there are certain limitations that will be inherent in the evaluation of the 2005-06 hybrid block scheduling format. There exist some complicating factors. First, because of redistricting of students at the beginning of the 2005-06 school year, a comparison of achievement data from the previous year must be considered with some caution because of changes in the student populations at each of the schools. Second, the first year of any innovative program may provide irregular results due to implementation challenges. Because of these cautions, it is recommended that this evaluation plan will span three years.

SCHOOL BOARD GOAL:

Goal 1: Provide educational excellence through instruction that establishes high expectations for all students yet recognizes the unique needs of each learner.

FUNDING SOURCE:

AUTHORIZATION REFERENCE: